

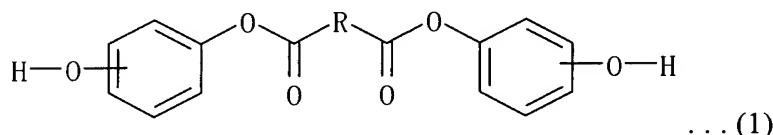
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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

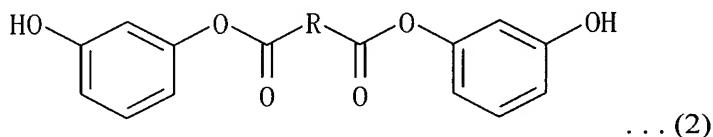
**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (original): A rubber composition comprising 1-10 parts by mass of sulfur and 0.1-10 parts by mass of a compound represented by the following general formula (1) based on 100 parts by mass of a rubber component:



(wherein R represents a divalent aliphatic group having a carbon number of 1-16 or a divalent aromatic group).

2. (original): A rubber composition according to claim 1, wherein the compound represented by the general formula (1) is a compound represented by the following general formula (2):

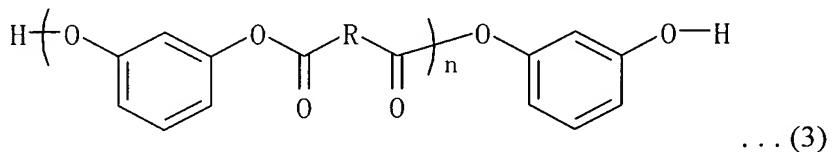


(wherein R represents a divalent aliphatic group having a carbon number of 1-16 or a divalent aromatic group).

3. (original): A rubber composition comprising 1-10 parts by mass of sulfur and 0.1-10 parts by mass of a composition containing 60-100 wt% of the compound represented by

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the general formula (2), 0-20 wt% of a compound represented by the following general formula (3) in which n is 2, 0-10 wt% of a compound represented by the following general formula (3) in which n is 3 and 0-10 wt% of a compound represented by the following general formula (3) in which n is 4-6 based on 100 parts by mass of a rubber component:



(wherein R is a divalent aliphatic group having a carbon number of 1-16 or a divalent aromatic group, and n is an integer of 2-6).

4. (currently amended): A rubber composition according to ~~any one of claims 1-3~~ claim 1, wherein R in the general formula (2) is an alkylene group having a carbon number of 2-10 or phenylene group.

5. (currently amended): A rubber composition according to ~~any one of claims 1-3~~ claim 1, wherein R in the general formulae (2) and (3) is an alkylene group having a carbon number of 2-10 or phenylene group.

6. (currently amended): A rubber composition according to ~~any one of claims 1-3~~ claim 1, which further contains 0.03-1 part by mass as a cobalt amount of an organic acid cobalt salt based on 100 parts by mass of the rubber component.

7. (currently amended): A rubber composition according to ~~any one of claims 1-3~~ and ~~6~~ claim 1, wherein the rubber component is at least one of natural rubber and polyisoprene rubber.

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8. (currently amended): A rubber composition according to ~~any one of claims 1-3 and 6-7~~ claim 1, wherein the rubber component comprises not lower than 50 mass% of natural rubber and the remainder being a synthetic rubber.

9. (original): An adhesion improver comprising the compound represented by the formula (2).

10. (original): An adhesion improver comprising a composition containing 60-100 wt% of the compound represented by the general formula (2), 0-20 wt% of a compound represented by the general formula (3) in which n is 2, 0-10 wt% of a compound represented by the general formula (3) in which n is 3 and 0-10 wt% of a compound represented by the following formula (3) in which n is 4-6.

11. (currently amended): A pneumatic tire comprising a carcass comprised of at least one carcass ply and a belt disposed on the carcass outward in a radial direction of the tire and comprised of at least one belt layer, wherein at least one of the carcass and the belt includes a layer composed of steel cords covered with a coating rubber, characterized in that a rubber composition as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1-8~~ claim 1 is used as the coating rubber covering the steel cords in at least one of the carcass and the belt.